

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 HA-05 /094 W
-----002327 070811Z /17

O R 060950Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0618
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1239

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RH,SF, PDEF,PINT
SUBJ: RHODESIA: SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES SETTLEMENT

REF: CAPE TOWN 0419

1. FURTHER TO REACTIONS REPORTED REFTEL, THE SAG HAS NOW
OFFICIALLY COME OUT WITH A STRONG POSITIVE REACTION TO THE
RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ON MARCH 3, PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT IN CAPE TOWN IN WHICH HE
SAID" THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE FACT THAT
WHITES AND BLACKS IN RHODESIA HAVE, AFTER LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS,
REACHED AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL
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DISPENSATION IN THAT COUNTRY. HOW SUCCESSFUL IT WILL BE IN
PRACTICE WILL DEPEND ON THE ONE HAND ON THE GOOD
FAITH WITH WHICH THE PARTIES ADHERE TO AND IMPLEMENT
IT IN PRACTICE, AND ON THE OTHER HAND WHETHER THEY ARE
ALLOWED BY SO-CALLED" PUBLIC OPINION" AS WELL AS
AFRICAN AND WORLD ORGANISATIONS AND COUNTRIES,
NEIGHBOURING OR FAR AWAY, TO ARRANGE AND DETERMINE

THEIR OWN AFFAIRS ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN WISHES.
TIME ALONE CAN GIVE THE ANSWER TO THIS."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ALSO COMMENTED ON THE
SCHEDULE ON MARCH 4 AFTER HIS RETURN FROM WINDHOEK.
HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT " WE WELCOME IT... WE HAVE SAID
BEFORE THAT A GREAT MEASURE OF CONSENSUS AMONG THE
LEADERS OF RHODESIA ON THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE IS
A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE STEP. THOSE LEADERS HAVE
A RIGHT TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN FUTURE, JUST AS IT IS
THE PREROGATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST TO WORK
OUT THEIR OWN FUTURE." BLACK LEADERS AND SMITH HAD
REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON MAJORITY RULE, BOTHA SAID, SO
" WHY SHOULD THE WAR CONTINUE UNLESS SOMEBODY HAS
ULTERIOR MOTIVES."
BOWDLER

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NNN

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